

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 are pending in this application, of which claim 8 has been amended. Claims 1-3 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 4-7 are canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over **Watanabe** (previously applied) in view of U.S. Patent 1,655,299 to Thornton (hereafter, "**Thornton**") and **Haraguchi et al.** (previously applied).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Watanabe discloses a projection 16 of the engaging portion of the spool shaft 2 which prevents relative rotation between the core 5 and the spool shaft by engaging the grooves 5a of the core 5 on which the tape is wound.

Haraguchi et al. discloses a folder paper material wound on a tubular shaft member.

The combination of **Watanabe** and **Haraguchi et al.** fails to disclose at least four rectangularly-shaped notches disposed continuously about a circumference of the inside surface of the shaft member, but the Examiner has cited **Thornton** for disclosing "at least four notches a2, b2 on the inner surface of the wall that receive projections on a drive spindle."

Applicant respectfully disagrees and respectfully submits that **Thornton** cannot be combined with the other cited references to teach the present invention because the "notches" in **Thornton** are arranged on an end of the shaft on both the inner and outer surfaces of the wall of the shaft member. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the notches are defined

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,029
Response to Office Action dated October 19, 2006

by recesses disposed only on the inner surface of the wall of the shaft member.

Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to clarify this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

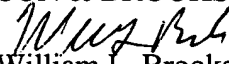
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 8-10, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP


William L. Brooks

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/ak
Atty. Docket No. 010911
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE